

Agency for International Development (USAID) enables the U.S. to demonstrate both its generosity and its willingness to provide a tangible learning tool. Last year, in partnership with USAID's Africa Education Initiative, 18 containers of books were delivered to Ghana, Liberia, Madagascar, Senegal, South Africa, Tanzania, and Zambia. All told, Books for Africa delivered 119 containers of books in 2007 to 22 countries, a truly impressive accomplishment.

This form of public diplomacy—putting the book in the hands of a child or elder—is truly the best face of America and should not only be sustained, but expanded. In the U.S. we take books for granted, but we should never forget the power of a book. And, when they are distributed by the millions, the benefit cannot be overstated.

Let me conclude by also recognizing the extraordinary effort of the volunteers for Books for Africa, as well as the donations of high quality books from publishers, schools and organizations. This combined and coordinated effort is transforming lives. If this generosity and determination to provide books can continue to match the hunger for knowledge, learning, and education by the children and adults all across the African continent then we will have even greater accomplishments to celebrate in the future.

Again, congratulations to Books for Africa for 20 years of extraordinary work to build a bridge of knowledge, education and hope between Minnesota and communities all across Africa.

A TRIBUTE TO RICHFIELD'S 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. KEITH ELLISON

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mr. ELLISON. Madam Speaker, I am honored to congratulate the citizens of Richfield, Minnesota on the celebration of the city's 100th anniversary.

Richfield is a diverse, vibrant community whose history mirrors that of the State of Minnesota. Originally, the territory was inhabited by the Ojibwe and Dakota tribes, and, in the late 18th century, was claimed by the French. The territory was first settled in 1852 by Riley Bartholomew on the eastern shore of Wood Lake; the Bartholomew homestead remains there to this day, and is listed on the National and Minnesota Registers of Historic Places. In 1804, the territory was purchased by the United States Government from France as a part of the Louisiana Purchase, and in the years following, would become a village, revered for the fertile texture of its soil and its farming communities. Richfield's economy would remain focused on agricultural commodities until the conclusion of World War II.

Today, Richfield is a prosperous community, home to families, education facilities, businesses, community organizations, wetlands and parks. The city will celebrate its first century this year by remembering the past. In honor of the city's centennial, a statue of Charles W. Lindberg, who helped to raise the United States flag atop the island of Iwo Jima on February 23, 1945, will be dedicated at Veterans Park on July 4, 2009. The dedication

will also include a memorial to all veterans from Richfield.

I am honored to represent the residents of Richfield, Minnesota in the United States House of Representatives, and I applaud everyone, past or present, who contributed to the history of this great city. I hope the events scheduled to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the city are enjoyed by all residents and I look forward to making the next 100 years just as successful as the previous century.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIM MURPHY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 588, Adjournment, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 585, Approval of the Journal, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 586, H. Res. 1420, Recognizing September 11 as a day of remembrance, extending sympathies to those who lost their lives on September 11, 2001, and their families, honoring the heroic actions of our nation's first responders and Armed Forces, and reaffirming the commitment to defending the people of the United States against any and all future challenges, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 587, H.R. 6531, To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to restore the Highway Trust Fund balance, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

HONORING THE WEST HAVEN ITALIAN-AMERICAN CIVIC ASSOCIATION AS THEY CELEBRATE THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to extend my heartfelt congratulations to the members of the West Haven Italian-American Civic Association as they celebrate a remarkable milestone—their 50th Anniversary. As they mark this golden anniversary, their many members and their families can be proud of all that they have contributed and continue to contribute to our community.

My hometown of New Haven, Connecticut and its surrounding communities have always had a large and very proud Italian-American population. Over the years, a number of Italian-American clubs and organizations were formed by small groups within different neighborhoods and most were dedicated to particular towns or regions in the old country or were affiliated with certain Saints or religious societies. It was, is still today, a means of preserving and celebrating the traditions and culture brought to America from Italy.

The founders of the West Haven Italian-American Civic Association wanted to create a place where all Americans of Italian descent

could meet and socialize—an organization that was more general in its appeal and that encompassed all that the local Italian-American communities had to offer. They also wanted to create an organization that would allow them to give back to the community and country that had offered them so many opportunities and blessings.

After the official incorporation of both the West Haven Italian-American Civic Association and its sister organization, the West Haven Italian American Auxiliary, member contributions made possible the purchase of a plot of land and through the volunteer efforts of the membership, the buildings and grounds were renovated and improved. In less than a decade, because of increased membership, it became clear that they would need additional space for their meetings and social gatherings. Once again the generosity and volunteer efforts of the club's membership allowed them to build a new meeting hall which is still used today.

The West Haven Italian-American Civic Association has always been more than a social organization. One of their founding principles was a commitment to give back to the community in which they and their families had found the opportunity to prosper. Through the years, local schools, service organizations, police, fire, and volunteer organizations have all benefited from the generosity of the Association's members. Through its Civic and Welfare Fund, more than \$70,000 has been contributed to various causes. The Association also sponsors numerous youth sports teams and offers free use of their hall for, among many things, school bingos, sports affairs, and community fundraisers. It is not an exaggeration to say that the Association and the Auxiliary have not only realized the vision of the founding members, but have far exceeded them.

For their many invaluable contributions, I am proud to stand today to pay tribute to the membership—past and present—of the West Haven Italian-American Civic Association and Auxiliary as they mark their golden anniversary. I have no doubt that they and future generations of members will continue to make a difference in the lives of others leaving an indelible mark on our community. My very best wishes for another 50 years of success!

IN HONOR OF THE POLISH LEGION OF AMERICAN VETERANS

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 15, 2008

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of the Polish Legion of American Veterans (PLAV) on the occasion of their 39th Biennial National Convention and in recognition of their dedication to veterans' issues and to the community. I am proud to be an honorary member of the Polish Legion of American Veterans and of the leadership of the National Commander, Ernest Stetz.

PLAV, founded in 1920, is comprised of American veterans of Polish descent who actively engage in the community through education, charitable and civic activities. In addition to civic engagement, founding PLAV members worked for an independent Poland,